

VETERANS UPDATE

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ONLINE HEALTH LIBRARY FOR VETERANS



Veterans Health Library

Your source for health information

Veterans have access to a 24/7 online health library that provides information and education about medical conditions and treatments offered by VA.

The Veterans Health Library has more than 1,500 health sheets and 150 videos, in both English and Spanish. It gives Veterans access to health information that can help them make informed decisions about their care.

VA clinicians may also make use of the VHL. The library's medical content aligns with Department of Defense and VA clinical guidelines.

"The VHL is nearly eight years old, and we average nearly a million page views a year," said Becky Hartt Minor, a health educator and program manager for the VHL. "We know Veterans want a source for medical information that is relevant and provides easy to read information on health conditions."

The VHL is both mobile friendly and offers links to further VA resources. Unlike other health websites, the library is free of ads and pop-ups. Visit veteranshealthlibrary.va.gov today.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 6, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., OSDRI Winter Coat Giveaway, HPACT Clinic, T-37, PVAMC Campus, 830 Chalkstone Ave. Free winter clothing for Veterans in need and their families.

Dec. 11, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Rally for Women Warriors, Classroom 3, 5th floor, main hospital. An event to foster interaction and communications among Women Veterans.

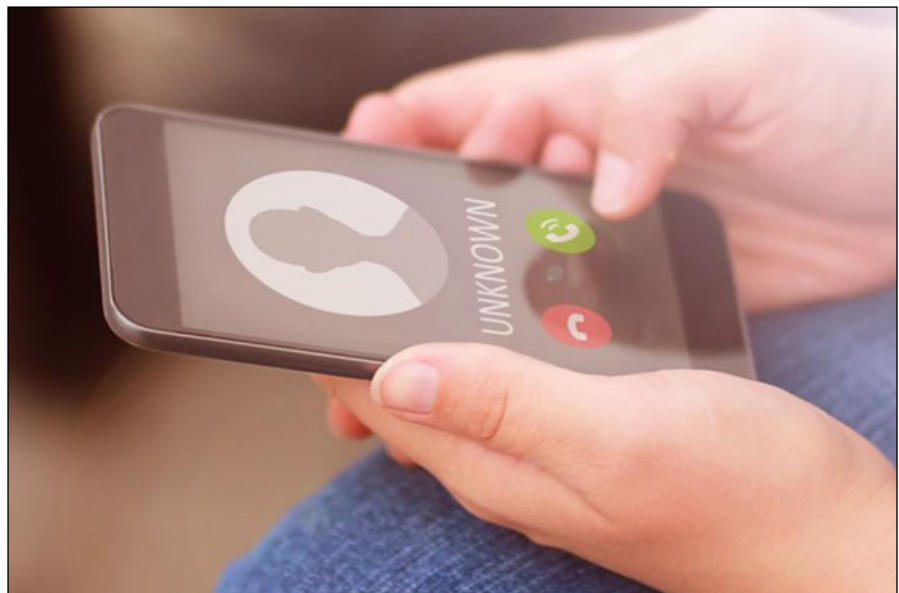
Jan. 22, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Last Roll Call Ceremony of Remembrance, 3rd Floor Chapel, main hospital. Honoring Veterans we have lost and supporting their loved ones.

NEW REPORTING FORM FOR SOCIAL SECURITY SCAMS

The Social Security Administration launched a dedicated online form at <https://oig.ssa.gov/> to receive reports from the public of Social Security-related scams.

These scams — in which fraudulent callers mislead victims into making cash or gift card payments to avoid arrest for purported Social Security number problems — skyrocketed over the past year to become the lead type of fraud.

Learn more at: <https://oig.ssa.gov/newsroom/news-releases/social-security-oig-launches-online-scam-reporting-form>.



WATERFIRE HONORS WOMEN VETERANS



Dee Endriss, a Navy Veteran from Connecticut, poses for a photo as part of the national #IServedToo recognition program at the WaterFire Salute to Veterans in Providence, R.I., Nov. 2, 2019. Endriss served in the 1970s as a Navy crypto technician receiver. (VA New England story and photo by John Paradis)

They were known as the “Hello Girls,” women switchboard operators of the U.S. Army Signal Corps in World War I, who ensured orders were communicated to the front lines from Gen. John Pershing’s headquarters in France.

When the war ended, there were no Veteran benefits for them, but they helped open the door for future women Veterans, said retired Army 1st Sgt. Dora Vasquez-Hellner of Westerly, R.I., keynote speaker for the WaterFire Salute to Veterans in Providence, Nov. 2.

The community event is one of the largest in southern New England. “Honoring Our Women Warriors” was the theme for the 2019 salute.

Thousands of people flock to downtown Providence for the event, a major outreach opportunity for the VA New England Healthcare System, which sets up a Veterans Resource Center.

VA outreach specialists, including more than a dozen VA team members from the Providence VA Medical Center, Regional

Benefits Office and the Mobile Vet Center, met Veterans throughout the day, helping them learn about VA benefits and services.

By mid-evening, more than 400 Veterans and family members had visited the center, with several applying for VA health care or sitting down with a benefits counselor to begin a claim for a service-connected disability.

A “Women Who Served” exhibit featured memorabilia recognizing the contributions of women Veterans, including photos of women who gave their lives in combat. One was Marine Cpl. Holly Charette from Rhode Island, the first woman to give her life while serving with the Marine Corps in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Charette was killed by a suicide bomber in 2005.

“To see the contributions of women in the military finally brought to the forefront is very meaningful to me and I’m sure other women Veterans who come through here today,” said Dee Endriss, a Navy Veteran from Connecticut. “I don’t think a lot of members of the public know about our service.”



Providence VA Medical Center

830 Chalkstone Ave
Providence, RI 02908
401-273-7100

Veteran’s Crisis Line:
800-273-8255 press 1

Patient Call Center (PCC):
401-457-3336

Office of Community Care
401-273-7100 ext. 3015

VA Benefits Information
800-827-1000

Website:
www.providence.va.gov

Facebook:
[facebook.com/
VAProvidence](https://facebook.com/VAProvidence)

Twitter:
twitter.com/VAProvidence

“I don’t think enough people understand the sacrifices of our military,” added Endriss, whose brother, Army Sgt. William James Endriss, was killed in Cambodia in 1970.